

# ST. JOHNS COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



## “Unlocking Potential, Restoring Hope”

**The Mission** of the St. Johns County Adult Drug Court is to enhance public safety by providing accountability, treatment, and support to eligible nonviolent individuals with substance use disorders. Through collaboration among the court, treatment providers, and community partners, we aim to reduce substance misuse, decrease repeat criminal behavior, strengthen families, lessen the financial impact on society, and help participants build healthy, productive, and law-abiding lives.



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## DRUG COURT TEAM MEMBERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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# WHAT IS DRUG COURT?

Drug Court is an intensive, treatment-based court program designed for people whose criminal behavior is connected to substance use. Rather than focusing solely on punishment, the program combines treatment, supervision, accountability, and support to help participants overcome substance use disorders, achieve lasting recovery, and build long-term success.

## *The program includes:*

- Court Hearings
- Supervision
- Treatment
- Community Support
- Drug Testing

## Drug Court Benefits

Participating in this intensive program is a big commitment, but it offers life-changing benefits that go far beyond avoiding jail time. Because we focus on the "whole person" rather than just the mistake you made, the advantages impact your health, your legal standing, and your future.

### *Recovery and Health*

The most important benefit is the opportunity to reclaim your life from addiction.

- **Professional Treatment:** You get access to treatment services that might otherwise be too expensive or hard to find.
- **Ongoing Support:** Unlike the traditional legal system, you have a team cheering for your success and helping you through setbacks.
- **Breaking the Cycle:** Drug Courts are proven to reduce the "revolving door" effect, helping people stay sober long-term rather than returning to old habits.

### *Legal Advantages*

Drug Court provides a way to resolve your legal issues through progress rather than punishment.

- **Avoiding Incarceration:** Successful participation usually allows you to stay in your community and with your family instead of going to jail or prison.
- **Clearer Record:** Depending on your specific case, graduating from the program may lead to your charges being dismissed, reduced, or your record being expunged (cleared).
- **Accountability over Retribution:** The judge works with you to help you succeed, using rewards and minor consequences to keep you on track.

### *Rebuilding Relationships*

Addiction can place significant strain on relationships with family, friends, and the community. Drug Court provides the structure, guidance, and support needed to help you build a healthier future by:

- **Reconnecting with Family:** Demonstrate your commitment to positive change and rebuild trust with your children, parents, partners, and other loved ones.
- **Finding Safe, Stable Housing:** Receive assistance in locating recovery-focused housing that provides a safe and supportive environment while you work toward long-term recovery.
- **Building a Positive Community:** Connect with others who are committed to recovery and personal growth, creating a network of encouragement, accountability, and support.

## AM I ELIGIBLE?

### You may qualify for Drug Court if:

- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You live in St. Johns County.
- You are charged with a qualifying non-violent felony offense.
- You do not have a significant history of violent crime.
- You have a substance use disorder and are at risk of reoffending.

### You must also agree to:

- Voluntarily choose to participate.
- Follow all Drug Court rules.
- Complete treatment and supervision requirements.
- Allow information concerning you to be shared with all Drug Court team members to carry out official tasks for the program. This includes, but is not limited to drug testing results, treatment group attendance and participation, required office visit compliance and overall program progress.
- Waive due process rights regarding the imposition of sanctions. The waiver of due process rights does not include a Drug Court team decision for termination from the program.

***Final eligibility is determined by the Drug Court team and the Judge.***

## HOW DO I JOIN DRUG COURT?

### *Step 1: Talk to Your Attorney*

If you are interested in Drug Court, speak with your attorney.

### *Step 2: Legal Review*

The State Attorney's Office will review your case to determine legal eligibility.

### *Step 3: Observe Drug Court*

You will attend one or more Drug Court session(s) to see how the program works.

### *Step 4: Clinical Assessment*

You will meet with a treatment professional who will complete an assessment and recommend treatment services.

### *Step 5: Final Review*

- The Drug Court team will review your information and make a recommendation to the Judge.
- The Judge makes the final decision about whether you will be accepted into the Drug Court Program.
- If you are accepted, the Judge will sign an order placing you in the Drug Court Program and on Drug Offender Probation.
- After you are accepted into the Drug Court Program, you are expected to complete all program requirements. If you want to leave the program before you graduate, you must ask the Judge for permission. The Judge will review your request and decide whether to approve or deny it.

## WELCOME TO DRUG COURT

We are pleased that you chose to participate in the Drug Court program. Choosing Drug Court is a big step toward a healthier and more stable future. Recovery is not easy, but you do not have to do it alone. **Our goal is simple: Help you build a drug-free, law-abiding, healthy life.**

### **You Are Not Alone**

Recovery is a team effort. When you join this program, you gain a support system dedicated to your success. Every member of this team works together to give you the best opportunity to change your life for the better. The team makes decisions to help you succeed.

## Your Drug Court Team Includes:

- **Judge**  
The Judge oversees your progress, encourages your success, and makes all final decisions after considering information from you and the Drug Court team.
- **Defense Attorney**  
Your attorney protects your legal rights and helps you understand the court process.
- **State Attorney**  
The State Attorney represents the interests of the community and participates in team decisions.
- **Probation Officer**  
Your probation officer supervises your case, helps you follow program rules, and supports your progress.
- **Treatment Counselor**  
Your counselor helps you understand addiction, develop recovery skills, and overcome challenges.
- **Problem-Solving Court Coordinator (Coordinator)**  
The coordinator manages the program and connects you with services and resources.
- **Civil Legal Aid**  
Your legal aid attorney provides free advice and representation with your civil legal issues.
- **Court Staff and Law Enforcement**  
These team members help ensure the program operates safely and effectively.  
Every team member shares the same goal: helping you succeed.

## Your Goals for Success

Your counselor and probation officer will help you set personal goals. Overall, the program is built around these main goals for every participant:

### 1. Healthy Living

- **Stay Drug-Free:** Reach and keep your goal of living without drugs and alcohol.
- **Spot the Signs:** Learn the "warning signs" that might lead to a slip-up and create a plan to stay on track.
- **Change Your Circle:** Spend time with people and in places that support your new, healthy lifestyle.

### 2. New Skills for Daily Life

- **Solve Problems:** Learn better ways to handle life's stress and problems without using drugs.
- **Manage Your Time:** Learn how to organize your day and show up for your responsibilities.
- **Handle Money:** Learn how to create a budget and take care of your bills.
- **Communicate:** Improve how you talk and listen to others to build better social skills.

### 3. A Better Future

- **Find Good Work:** Improve your chances of getting or keeping a job through school or vocational training.  
**Build Relationships:** Work on healthy connections with your family, friends, and the community.
- **Follow the Rules:** Keep up with all court and probation requirements to successfully finish the program.

### 4. Personal Growth

- **Be Accountable:** Take responsibility for your actions and learn from your mistakes.
- **Change Habits:** Recognize and change behaviors that used to get you into trouble.
- **Live Law-Abiding:** Build a lifestyle that keeps you safe and out of the legal system.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

To remain in Drug Court and reach your goals, you must:

- **Attend Court:** Show up for all scheduled court hearings so the judge can check on your progress.
- **Stay in Treatment:** Participate in all required treatment services and follow your personalized treatment plan.
- **Take Drug Tests:** Complete frequent and random testing to show you are staying drug-free.
- **Meet With Your Team:** Report to your probation officer and Coordinator as required.
- **Keep Busy:** Maintain employment, attend school, or actively work toward approved goals.
- **Follow Program Rules:** Comply with all court orders, probation conditions, and treatment requirements.

***Surround yourself with people, places, and things that support a drug-free lifestyle.***

## YOUR RIGHTS

While I am in Drug Court:

- I will be treated with dignity and respect.
- I have the right to receive treatment that meets my needs.
- I may ask questions about the program.
- I may speak to my attorney about legal matters.
- I have the right to a hearing before I am terminated from the program.
- I may request reasonable accommodation for a disability.

## PROGRAM LENGTH

Because recovery is a journey, this program takes time. You must be willing to commit to the **entire program**, which will last at least **one (1) year**.

*The exact length depends on:*

- Your treatment needs.
- Your progress.
- Your compliance with program requirements.

## THE FOUR PHASES OF DRUG COURT

Think of Drug Court as a ladder with four (4) steps (phases). To climb to the next step, you must show steady progress in your recovery and daily life.

As you move up to higher phases, your hard work pays off: you will have fewer court dates and fewer check-ins. However, your responsibilities will stay high to make sure you are ready for life after the program. **Random drug testing will remain frequent until the very end.**

### **Phase I: Assessment, Orientation and Stabilization (Minimum of 60 Days)**

**Goal:** Learn the Drug Court schedule and expectations, begin living drug-and alcohol-free, and understand your treatment needs.

#### **Requirements:**

- Complete orientations with Probation and the Coordinator.
- Complete all treatment intakes and assessments.
- Attend court weekly.
- Attend at least three (3) group therapy sessions per week during the phase.
- Participate in at least two (2) individual therapy sessions during the phase.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least five (5) days each week.
- Meet with your Probation officer once (1) a week as instructed by your probation officer.
- Meet with your Coordinator once (1) a week as instructed.
- Complete at least 60 total days in Phase 1.
- Accumulate at least 60 **consecutive** (uninterrupted) sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

***To advance to the next phase of the program, you must make progress in your treatment plan to the satisfaction of your counselor, and:***

- Complete at least 60 total days in Phase 1.
- Accumulate at least 60 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

## **Phase 2: Intensive Outpatient Treatment (Minimum of 120 Days)**

**Goal:** Build skills for long-term recovery, learn more about addiction and how it affects your life, and maintain short-term sobriety.

### ***Requirements:***

- Attend Court once every two (2) weeks.
- Attend at least three (3) group therapy sessions per week.
- Participate in at least one (1) individual therapy session per month.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least five (5) days each week.
- Meet with your Probation officer once every two (2) weeks as instructed by your Probation officer.
- Meet with your Coordinator once every (2) weeks as instructed.

***To advance to the next phase of the program, you must progress in your treatment plan to the satisfaction of your counselor, and:***

- Complete at least 120 total days in Phase 2.
- Accumulate at least 90 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Obtain/maintain lawful employment of no less than 20 hours per week and/or enroll in/attend school.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

## **Phase 3: Skill Building and Adjustment (Minimum of 120 days)**

**Goal:** Become more independent by relying on community support instead of the structure of Drug Court. Build job skills, manage daily responsibilities, and continue strengthening your recovery.

### **Requirements:**

- Attend Court once (1) every three (3) weeks.
- Attend at least two (2) group therapy sessions per week.
- Participate in at least one (1) individual therapy session per month.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least three (3) days each week.
- Meet with your Probation officer once (1) a month as instructed by your Probation officer.
- Meet with your Coordinator once (1) a month as instructed.

***To advance to the next phase of the program, you must progress in your treatment plan to the satisfaction of your counselor, and:***

- Complete at least 120 total days in Phase 3.
- Accumulate at least 120 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Maintain lawful employment of no less than 20 hours per week and/or attend school.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

### **Phase 4: Continuing Care (Minimum of 60 Days)**

**Goal:** Prepare to live a drug-free and law-abiding life without the support and structure of Drug Court. Build the confidence and skills to maintain your recovery on your own.

### **Requirements:**

- Attend Court once (1) every month.
- Attend at least four (4) group therapy sessions per week.
- Participate in at least two (2) individual therapy sessions per month.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least three (3) days each week.
- Meet with your Probation officer once (1) a month as instructed by your Probation officer.
- Meet with your Coordinator once (1) a month as instructed.

***To advance to the next phase of the program, you must progress in my treatment plan to the satisfaction of your counselor, and:***

- Complete at least 60 total days in Phase 4.
- Accumulate at least 180 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Maintain lawful employment of no less than 20 hours per week and/or attend school.
- Complete graduation autobiography and vision/poster board.

### Notes:

If you enter and successfully complete a residential treatment program during any phase of Drug Court, you must return to and remain in the phase you were in immediately before entering residential treatment and complete a minimum of 30 days of intensive outpatient treatment (IOP), unless otherwise determined by the Drug Court team based on your individualized treatment needs. You must meet all applicable requirements for phase advancement before progressing to the next phase of the program.

If you are required to complete a residential treatment program for six (6) months or longer while in Drug Court, the time you spend in treatment may count toward moving to the next phase. The Drug Court team will create a plan based on your progress in treatment, completion of your treatment goals, and other requirements for your phase. The goal is to make sure you are not kept in Drug Court longer than necessary because you were in residential treatment. Please talk with the Drug Court Coordinator if you have questions or would like more information.

### Commencement Day-Successfully Completing Drug Court



We want you to do well and stay in treatment until you graduate! We conduct a special ceremony for those who complete the program. It is a time for you to continue living a law-abiding, drug-free lifestyle without the external “training wheels” provided by Drug Court. Using the support systems that you put in place while in Drug Court will become very important. Program graduates are strongly encouraged to come back to see Drug Court team members if you need help or to tell us how well you are doing!

Depending on your case, graduating from Drug Court may result in reduced penalties, early termination of probation, dismissal of charges, or other benefits authorized by law.

To graduate from the program, **you must be in good standing with the program on graduation day.**

You must also:

- Complete all Drug Court phases.
- Successfully complete treatment.
- Maintain sobriety.
- Meet community service requirements.
- Meet probation requirements.
- Pay all required fees and costs, unless otherwise addressed by the Court.

## COURT HEARINGS

Drug Court is different from traditional courts. You will see the Judge often, whether you are doing great or having a hard time. We have found that this regular "check-in" is one of the best ways to help you succeed.

**When and Where:** Drug Court hearings take place on **Thursdays at 2:30 PM in Courtroom 216**. Attendance is mandatory. How often you must attend depends on which phase of the program you are in.

| Phase | Court Schedule     |
|-------|--------------------|
| 1     | Weekly             |
| 2     | Once every 2 weeks |
| 3     | Once every 3 weeks |
| 4     | Once monthly       |

**Pre-Court Staffing:** Before you enter the courtroom, the Judge meets privately with the Drug Court team to look at your progress report, review your drug tests, share professional observations, and decide on appropriate responses to your behavior.

**Your Turn to Speak:** During the hearing, the Judge will talk directly to you about your progress. The judge will allow you a reasonable opportunity to explain your side of any factual disagreements, rewards, or consequences.

***The courtroom is a place of respect. Please follow these rules:***

**Be on Time:** You should plan to arrive no later than 2:15 PM because everyone is expected to be in court on time. Hearings begin at 2:30 PM. A failure to appear in court can result in a sanction, including a warrant being issued for your arrest. If you cannot appear due to a true emergency, you must notify a team member in advance.

**Stay the Whole Time:** You must remain in court for the entire hearing unless you are approved to leave early or are dismissed by the judge. You are there to address your own case and to support your peers.

**Be Respectful:** Remain seated and quiet unless asked to stand and speak. Turn your cell phone completely off or silent and put it away. Pay attention and be respectful to everyone.

**Dress Appropriately:** The way you dress shows respect for yourself and the court. Think of it like dressing for a job interview.

- **Allowed for Men:** Long pants, a shirt with sleeves, and shoes.
- **Allowed for Women:** Long pants, skirts or dresses (not too short), and modest tops.
- **Not Allowed:** No tank tops, halter tops, belly tops, or see-through shirts. No bathing suit tops. No hats or caps. No clothing that displays messages about drugs, alcohol, or gang-related symbols/colors.

## SUPERVISION

You will be assigned a probation officer and interact with the coordinator. Open communication with your probation officer and coordinator is important to your success. **You must:**

- Report to your probation officer and coordinator as directed.
- Follow all probation conditions.
- Obtain approval before changing residence.
- Obtain approval before leaving the county.
- Notify your probation officer of any arrest or new criminal charge.

### Fraternization, Living Together and Intimate Relationships

Participants are encouraged to build healthy relationships with others who are living a law-abiding, drug-free lifestyle. Helping other participants in the program by listening to each other, giving wise input when requested and carpooling together to treatment sessions are often good things that are encouraged.

Residing in the same sober-living home or sharing an apartment with another Drug Court participant may even be necessary to make ends meet financially. This type of living arrangement is acceptable; however, please be very prudent about the people with whom you spend your time, the places that you spend your time, and the things that you do. Those who are within their first year or two of recovery typically experience huge changes in their life.

People early in their recovery are often vulnerable in ways they do not fully understand. For this reason, entering new, intimate relationships, especially with others who are new to recovery such as other program participants, is strongly discouraged. Sadly, it is more common for a person who relapses to pull down their significant other than for a person who is strong in recovery to pull up their

intimate partner. We cannot overstate enough the importance for you to use this opportunity in Drug Court to focus your efforts on making yourself the best you can be.

## **Employment, Education and Constructive Use of Time**

Using your time in a productive and meaningful way is an important part of your success in Drug Court. Idleness and boredom can increase the risk of relapse and are inconsistent with the goals of the program. Starting in **Phase 2**, you are required to spend at least twenty (20) hours every week participating in approved, productive activities.

### **Meeting the 20-Hour Requirement**

You can meet your weekly 20-hour requirement through any of the following (or a combination of them):

- **Employment:** Working at a legitimate, verifiable job.
- **Education:** Attending an accredited school or vocational program.
- **Community Service:** Completing volunteer hours at an approved site.

### ***Goal: Full-Time Employment!***

Our goal is to help you achieve full-time, gainful employment. If you are working less than 20 hours per week or are not enrolled in school, you must make up the remaining hours with approved community service.

### ***What If I Am Unemployed?***

If you do not currently have a job or are not attending school, you must actively work toward employment by completing the following every week until you find work:

### ***Verification and Communication***

To ensure your success, your progress and hours will be regularly monitored:

- **Verification:** Your probation officer will verify your work hours, school attendance, and community service. Expect team members to contact your employer or school to verify your status.
- **Disclosure:** Your employer may be contacted to verify your employment and work hours. You should discuss with your probation officer the most appropriate method for employment verification. Disclosure of Drug Court participation should occur only when necessary to accomplish program requirements or as otherwise required by law.
- **Immediate Updates:** If you lose your job, change your school schedule, or have any other status changes, you must notify your probation officer and coordinator immediately.

## ***Participants with Disabilities***

Drug Court wants every participant to have an equal chance to successfully complete the program. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Florida law, and Drug Court Best Practice Standards, the Drug Court team may make reasonable changes to program requirements, rules, or procedures for participants with qualifying disabilities.

If you cannot meet program requirements, such as working, going to school, completing community service, looking for a job, or other assigned activities because of a documented physical, mental, intellectual, developmental, or other qualifying disability, you should tell the coordinator or your probation officer as soon as possible.

You may be asked to provide a letter or other documentation from a qualified medical or mental health professional that explains your disability and why you need a reasonable modification. If your disability and the need for the modification are obvious, you may not need to provide documentation.

If a reasonable modification is approved, the Drug Court team will work with you to create a plan that fits your abilities, treatment goals, and recovery needs. Depending on your situation, reasonable modifications may include changing the number of required hours or activities, allowing different approved activities, participating in vocational rehabilitation or disability support services, receiving medical or mental health treatment, attending life skills classes, or taking part in other court-approved activities that support your recovery and help you complete the program.

Reasonable modifications are decided on a case-by-case basis. They are meant to give participants with disabilities an equal opportunity to succeed in Drug Court. A reasonable modification does not excuse you from participating in the program. You are expected to follow your individualized plan and keep the Drug Court team informed if your condition or needs change.

### ***Schedule Conflicts: Drug Court Comes First***

While we want to support your employment and educational goals as much as possible, your recovery requirements must remain your top priority.

You may not miss, skip, or arrive late at any of the following due to work or school schedules:

- Court appearances
- Random drug testing
- Group therapy sessions
- Individual treatment appointments

Please communicate your Drug Court schedule to your employer or school advisors early so they can help you accommodate these mandatory appointments.

## **Travel Privileges**

Generally, you must be in Phase 3 or higher for travel requests.

Travel requests should be submitted to your probation officer at least one week before the planned travel date.

For overnight trips, you will be required to provide a urine sample before and after your trip, as instructed by your probation officer.

## **TREATMENT**

Recovery is possible. Millions of people have overcome substance use disorders and are living healthy, productive lives. Research shows that treatment works when people actively participate and receive evidence-based care and support. Recovery is a process that takes time, effort, and commitment, but you do not have to do it alone. The Drug Court team is here to support you as you build the skills and habits needed for long-term success. Your future is not defined by your past. With commitment and support, you can achieve your recovery goals.

### **Release of Information & Confidentiality**

To encourage open and honest participation in treatment, federal and state laws protect the confidentiality of your treatment information. In accordance with these laws, the Drug Court program has established policies and procedures to safeguard your privacy.

Because Drug Court relies on collaboration among members of the Drug Court team, you will be required to sign a written Release of Information authorizing the exchange of information necessary for the administration of the program. Information will be shared only as permitted by applicable federal and state law and only with individuals who have a legitimate need to know.

As a participant, you are expected to respect the confidentiality of other participants and not disclose information learned through the treatment process or during program activities.

Drug Court hearings are generally open to the public in accordance with Florida law. However, the confidentiality of your treatment records and other protected information will be maintained as required by applicable federal and state confidentiality laws, including 42 C.F.R. Part 2 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), when applicable.

As part of your enrollment, you will be asked to sign a Participant Agreement and Disclosure that includes your authorization for the exchange of information necessary to support your participation in the Drug Court program.

***You will sign a Participant Agreement containing the following language:***

I understand that the confidentiality of my alcohol and drug treatment records is protected under Federal regulations: Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records, 42 CFR Part 2 and the HIPAA privacy Rule, 4 CFR 16-, 162, and 164. I further understand and consent to the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) staff having access to the data provided in the Florida Drug Court Case Management System, as required part of the Florida Drug Court compliance, for purposes of providing administrative oversight, program monitoring and evaluation, and data compliance review. OSCA's contracted vendor, Advanced Computer Technologies, also has access to data for purposes of webhosting, support, and data maintenance.

## **Treatment Services**

Treatment Services are provided by EPIC Behavioral Healthcare (EPIC). You must pay **\$10 a week** for treatment services directly to EPIC. If you fall behind on your payments, it will be addressed in court and can delay your advancement in the program.

You will work with your treatment counselor to develop an individualized treatment plan based on your substance use disorder assessment. Your treatment plan will be based on your individual treatment needs, and the level of treatment you receive may be adjusted as your needs and response to treatment change. Your treatment plan may include:

- Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP)
- Outpatient Treatment
- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Residential Treatment
- Recovery Support Meetings
- Medications

Treatment services and level of care will be determined based on your assessed treatment needs and may be adjusted as your needs and response to treatment change. If you are required to enter residential treatment, you may be required to pay some or all of the costs associated with that treatment.

## **Treatment Center Rules**

Your family and friends cannot hang out or loiter at the treatment center. They should simply drop you off and pick you up afterward.

## **Unacceptable Behavior**

- Violence or threats of any kind towards staff or other participants.
- Use/possession of alcohol or other drugs.
- Belligerent behavior or acts of vandalism to the property.
- Possession of any type of weapon.
- Inappropriate sexual behavior or harassment.
- Breach of confidentiality of other patients in treatment.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Recovery is easier when you have support. Drug Court is here to help you build a strong support network that you can rely on during the program and after you graduate. While the Drug Court team will guide and encourage you, your long-term success depends on the healthy relationships and community connections you build.

### **What Is Community Support?**

Community support includes the people, places, and services that can help you maintain your health, support your recovery, and move toward your goals. A strong support network can help you manage challenges, stay focused on your goals, and maintain your recovery. Your support network may include:

- Family members and supportive friends
- Recovery support meetings, such as AA, NA, SMART Recovery, or other recovery groups
- A sponsor, recovery coach, or peer recovery support specialist
- Counselors, treatment providers, and healthcare professionals
- Your faith community, if that is important to you
- Employers, teachers, or educational and vocational programs
- Sober living or recovery housing
- Other community organizations and resources

### **Building Your Support Network**

One of your goals in Drug Court is to build a support network that will continue after you graduate. The Drug Court team will help connect you with community resources that match your needs. These may include recovery support services, healthcare, housing, employment assistance, education, transportation, and other local resources.

The relationships you build during Drug Court can become an important part of your long-term recovery and success.

## Building Your Circle of Support

You are encouraged to:

- Attend recovery support meetings that fit your recovery goals.
- Find a sponsor, mentor, recovery coach, or peer support specialist who can encourage and support you.
- Build healthy relationships with people who support your recovery and positive lifestyle.
- Take part in sober, recovery-focused activities and community events.
- Use community resources that help you reach your goals for housing, employment, education, health, and recovery.
- Stay connected with people who encourage positive choices and personal growth.

## Transportation

Transportation is a critical component of ensuring participants can meet the various requirements of the Drug Court program. Given that the schedule may be demanding, particularly in the early stages of the program, it is essential that participants have reliable means of transportation.

To support participants in meeting these requirements, the program offers transportation assistance through several resources. These include:

- Bus Tokens (EPIC and/or Probation)
- Bicycles (EPIC and/or Probation)

If additional assistance or accommodation is needed, participants are encouraged to communicate their transportation challenges with a Drug Court team member for further support.

## PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

Even though some substances are legal for adults, they can still interfere with your recovery. To help you stay on track, the Drug Court has strict rules that requires complete abstinence from alcohol and non-prescribed drugs. The list below provides an example of substances and medications that are prohibited in the Drug Court. This is not a complete list. For further clarification of any drug and/or medication not listed please contact your treatment counselor.

All designer stimulants/drugs that can be purchased legally or illegally are strictly prohibited. All products sold or marketed with the warning “**not for human consumption**” are strictly prohibited. Using or being in possession of any substance intended to replace an otherwise illegal/prohibited substance is strictly prohibited. ***You may not use:***

## Examples of Prohibited Substances/Medication Classification

For medications, the brand name is in ( ) if the generic name is also listed. Many over the counter medications are also listed. For illicit drugs, examples of “street” names are included.

### Alcohol (In Any Form)

Alcoholic beverages, powders, creams, vapors, medications containing alcohol (cough syrups/liquid-caps such as Nyquil and Robitussin), energy drinks containing alcohol, foods containing alcohol

### Amphetamine

Adderall, Adipost, Benzedrine, Cartwheels, Dexedrine, Dexatrim, Didrex, Molly, Phentermine (Adipex), Preludin, Ritalin, Speed, Vyvanse, White, and any medications containing Pseudoephedrine such as Alka-Seltzer Cold, Claritin-D, Comtrex Acute, Contac Cold Maximum, Coricidin, Dayquil/Nyquil, Dimetapp, Dristan Maximum, Robitussin, Sinarest, Sudafed, Tavist Allergy, Tylenol Cold or Allergy

***There are non-pseudoephedrine “D” versions available in almost all of these.***

### Barbiturate

Allobarbitol, Amobarbitol, Barbitol, Butalbital (Fiorinal), Downers, Goofballs, Pentobarbitol, Phenobarbitol (Luminal), Pinks, Reds, Yellow Jackets

### Benzodiazepine

Alprazolam (Xanax, Niravam), BZDs, Candy, Clonazepam (Klonopin), Chlordiazepoxide (Librium), Diazepam (Valium), Flunirazepam (Rohypnol), Lorazepam (Ativan), Oxaprozin (Daypro), Oxazepam (Serax), Qual, Tranx

### Cocaine

Big C, Blow, Charlie, Crack, Mojo, Powder, Rock, Snow, Toot

### Dextromethorphan “DM”

Cold and flu medications and cough suppressants such as Alka-Seltzer Cold,

Comtrex Acute, Contac Cold Maximum, Coricidin, Dayquil/Nyquil, Dimetapp, Dristan Maximum, Robitussin, Sudafed, Triaminic, Tylenol Cold, Vicks 44.

***There are non-dextromethorphan “DM” versions available of almost all of these.***

Hallucinogens

Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), Ecstasy “Molly”, Ketamine, LSD, Methoxetamine, Methylenedioxy pyrovalerone (MDPV), Mushrooms, PCP, Tryptamine, Inhalants

Methamphetamine

Black Beauties, Chalk, Crank, Crystal, Glass, Ice, Meth, Tweak, Uppers

Miscellaneous Substances, including natural and designer stimulants and synthetic substances

All Inhalants, All Synthetic substances, Appetite Suppressants- most are prohibited, Bath Salts, Cathinones, Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril), Diphenhydramine (Benadryl), Caffeine Pills, Flakka, Ketamine, Khat, Kratom, Krokodil, Mescaline, Mephedrone, Poppy Seeds and/or foods containing poppy seeds, Steroids, Soma, Xyrem (GHB), Anything labeled “Not for Human Consumption”.

Opioids

(including Opioid-based substances/Opioid-similar substances)

Codeine (cough meds, Tylenol 3), Fentanyl (Actiq, Duragesic), Heroin, Hillbilly, Hydro, Hydrocodone (Lortab, Loracet, Norco, Vicodin, Vicoprofen), Hydromorphone (Dilaudid, Exalgo), Kickers, Meperidine (Demerol), Monkey, Morphine (Avinza, Kadian, MS Contin, Nucynta ER, Opana ER, Zohydro), Morphine Sulfate, Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet, Roxicet, Roxycodone), Pancakes & Syrup, Poppy Seeds and/or foods containing poppy seeds, Propoxyphene (Darvocet, Darvon), School Boy, Tramadol (Ultram), Watson

THC (Marijuana)

All forms of illegal or legal Cannabinoids, Marijuana, Medical Marijuana, Blunt, Bud, Dope, Grass, Herb, Joint, Mary Jane, Pot, Weed

## Over the Counter (OTC) Medications

You must not ingest mind altering OTC medication that may result in a positive drug screen. You must discuss all OTC medication and supplements you plan to take with your treatment counselor before taking the medication. This is particularly important before ingesting diet pills, herbal supplements or energy drinks. Examples of OTC medication that will not result in a positive drug screen when taken as directed include aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen.

Before taking any new medication:

- Read the label.
- Choose alcohol-free products.
- Talk with your treatment counselor if you have questions.

## Prescription Medications

***If prescribed medication:***

- Inform the prescribing doctor that you are in Drug Court.
- Notify your probation officer and coordinator within 24 hours.
- Provide a copy of the prescription if requested.

## Summary Checklist for Smart Choices

Before taking any medicine, drink, or supplement, ask yourself these three (3) questions:

1. Did I tell the doctor or pharmacist that I am in Drug Court?
2. Did I read the ingredient label to make sure it doesn't cause drowsiness or contain alcohol?
3. Did I notify my counselor?

## DRUG TESTING

Drug testing is a major part of your journey in Drug Court. We don't use tests to "catch" you doing something wrong. Instead, they are tools to help keep you accountable and celebrate your progress as you build a drug-free life. Drug tests may be conducted at EPIC, the probation office, the courthouse, or any other approved location. ***Always be ready for a drug test while in the Drug Court program.***

## Honesty is Your Best Option

Recovery is a journey, and setbacks can happen. If you slip up, **tell us right away**. Talk to your counselor, sponsor, probation officer, or any Drug Court team member as soon as possible. When you are honest, we can quickly give you the support and treatment you need to get back on track. We are here to help you succeed.

## Random Testing

You will be tested frequently and at random times, including on weekends and holidays.

You are required to call the random drug testing number **everyday** (including weekends and holidays) between 6:30 AM and 8:00 AM to find out if you are required to provide a urine sample.

- The number to call is **904-827-5637**.
- Listen to the entire message as starting times for urine collections could change.
- You must report as directed and follow all proper testing procedures. Random urine specimens are collected at EPIC Behavioral Services, 3910 Lewis Speedway, Suite 1103, St. Augustine, FL.
- Currently, collection time begins at **8:00 AM and ends at 9:30 AM**.
- If the recording is incorrect, or you cannot access the recording, please go to EPIC Behavioral Healthcare as a default. This will ensure your attendance at testing.
- If you are unable to produce a urine specimen, or if the sample provided is not of sufficient quantity, it will be considered to be an invalid test and you may be sanctioned.

## Children

To maintain a safe, secure, and confidential testing environment, children are not permitted at the drug testing site. You are responsible for arranging appropriate childcare before reporting for drug testing.

Reporting to the testing site with a child may result in your not being able to complete the required drug test. Failure to provide a required drug test because of childcare issues may be treated as a missed or noncompliant test and addressed in accordance with Drug Court policies and your individualized case plan, unless otherwise approved by the Drug Court team due to exceptional circumstances.

If you anticipate having difficulties obtaining childcare you should notify the coordinator as soon as possible to discuss available options. However, the responsibility for securing childcare remains with you.

## Specialized Testing

If the team has reason to believe you are using a specific prohibited substance, you may be ordered to take a **specialized or confirmatory test**. If the test is positive, you must reimburse the Drug Court

program for the cost of the lab test. You cannot use community service hours to pay this fee. If you do not pay, the judge will address it in court, and it could be treated as a program violation.

## Positive Tests Results

The consequences of a positive drug test are as follows:

- You will be contacted by the coordinator to discuss the test results and the reason for the use.
- You will immediately lose your accumulated sobriety recovery days.
- You will be sanctioned.
- You will be required to reimburse the Drug Court Program twenty dollars (**\$20**) for the laboratory confirmation test.
- You will be placed on relapse management and testing for a minimum of thirty (30) days, which consists of:
  - **Weekly Court Attendance.**
  - **Increased testing.** You will be required to report and provide a urine sample anytime a drug test is scheduled, regardless of the phase you are currently in.

There may also be a treatment response that could include additional treatment, support groups, and other types of services, which may even include residential treatment.

## Missed Tests

It is your responsibility to report for all your required drug tests. Missing a drug test prevents the Drug Court team from verifying your sobriety and undermines the accountability that is essential to recovery. If you are late for a test, or miss a test, it will be considered to be an invalid test for drugs or alcohol or a “no show” and you may be sanctioned.

If an emergency prevents you from reporting for testing, you must notify a Drug Court team member as soon as possible and provide any requested documentation.

## Do not try to "beat the test"

Tampering with a test, using chemicals to hide drugs, or using someone else's urine will result in very severe consequences. You will not usually be kicked out of the program just for using drugs; we want to help you be honest so we can hold you accountable and help you recover.

## Diluted Samples

Your urine sample will be tested to make sure it is not dilute (too watered down). If your urine has a creatinine concentration of less than 20 mg/dL, it will be considered an invalid test, and you may be sanctioned.

To help avoid a dilute sample, do not drink excessive amounts of fluids for a few hours before testing. You should also eat a meal or snack before your test. Drinking too much liquid before testing can make your urine too dilute. Because the Drug Court team cannot determine why a sample is dilute, any dilute sample is considered an invalid test and may result in sanctions.

**Note:** Drug testing frequency is based on your treatment needs and clinical progress. It is not automatically reduced when you advance to a new phase.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Upon entering Drug Court, all participants are assigned a specific number of community service hours as part of your rehabilitation and accountability process. Your probation officer will provide you with a list of approved community service partners. Any organization outside of the approved list will need to be approved by probation.

- **The Standard Requirement:** You are expected to complete **100 hours** across the phases of the program.
- **Phase Progress:** You must finish your required community service hours for your current phase before you can move up to the next phase.
- **Your Responsibility:** You are responsible for ensuring your hours are documented and submitted to probation for verification. Failing to finish your hours can result in phase delays and court consequences. If you run into trouble completing your hours, it is your job to talk to a team member to discuss alternative options.

### Community Service Credit Opportunities

You can earn extra community service hours by participating in approved personal growth activities. These hours apply toward your 100-hour total, reducing the time you must spend on community service work:

| Additional Community Service Opportunities | # of Hours Earned |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Successful completion and earned GED       | 25 Hrs.           |
| Completion of Operation New Hope           | 15 Hrs.           |
| 7 Consecutive A-Teams                      | 10 Hrs.           |

| <b>Additional Community Service Opportunities</b>         | <b># of Hours Earned</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Completion of the Test for Adults Basic Education (TABE)  | 10 Hrs.                  |
| Enrolling in college                                      | 5 Hrs.                   |
| Obtaining a valid driver's license                        | 5 Hrs.                   |
| Participating in a speaking engagement / outreach project | 2 Hrs.                   |
| Volunteering in approved community outreach activities    | 2 Hrs.                   |
| Researching personal healthcare or employment benefits    | 2 Hrs.                   |

## INCENTIVES, SANCTIONS, AND THERAPEUTIC ADJUSTMENTS

Drug Court uses incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments to help participants stay engaged in recovery and make progress toward their goals.

The Drug Court team reviews each situation carefully and makes recommendations to the Judge based on the facts of the case.

Before the Judge imposes an incentive, sanction, or therapeutic adjustment, you will have an opportunity to explain your side of the situation. If there is a disagreement about the facts, the Judge will consider the information presented and make the final decision.

The Drug Court team works to ensure that participants are treated fairly and consistently while also considering each person's individual circumstances.

### **Incentives (Rewards for Positive Choices)**

Incentives are rewards for following program requirements and making progress in your recovery. At each court hearing, the Judge will review your progress and recognize your accomplishments.

#### ***The "A-Team"***

The A-Team is a special weekly honor for participants who perfectly completed every single program requirement in the week leading up to their court appearance. Recommendations are made by the whole Drug Court team. If you are placed on the A-Team, you are allowed to leave the courtroom after you speak to the judge and are dismissed, rather than staying for the whole hearing.

#### ***A-Team with Incentives***

Any participant that exceeds minimum requirements may be recognized as being on the A-Team with incentives.

**Examples of behaviors that may earn incentives include:**

- Following your treatment and supervision plan
- Attending court, treatment, and support meetings
- Providing negative drug test results
- Maintaining employment or attending school
- Earning a GED or college credits
- Participating in community service or volunteer activities
- Demonstrating leadership and positive behavior

**Examples of incentives include:**

- Praise and recognition from the Judge
- Certificates of achievement
- Sobriety milestones and tokens
- Gift cards
- Reduction of certain fines and costs
- Reduced court appearances as you advance through phases
- Phase advancement
- Program graduation

**Sanctions (Consequences for Poor Choices)**

Sanctions are responses to behavior that does not follow program rules. The purpose of a sanction is to hold participants accountable and help them get back on track.

**Examples of behaviors that may result in sanctions include:**

- Missing court, treatment, probation, or coordinator appointments
- Missing support meetings
- Positive drug tests
- Missing a drug test
- Dilute drug tests
- Failure to follow your treatment or supervision plan
- Dishonesty
- Forged or altered documents
- Inappropriate behavior at treatment
- Failure to complete assigned sanctions
- Tampering with a drug test or providing another person's sample
- New criminal offenses

**Examples of sanctions include:**

- Verbal warning or reprimand from the Judge
- Increased court appearances
- Increased supervision or drug testing
- Additional treatment services
- Additional support meetings
- Community service hours
- Essays or educational assignments
- Verbal or written apologies
- Day reporting
- Short-term jail sanctions

The type of sanction depends on the seriousness of the violation, your phase in the program, your willingness to accept responsibility, and your overall progress.

## **Relapse Management and Testing**

Recovery is a process. A relapse does not automatically mean you will be removed from Drug Court. If a relapse occurs, the team may:

- Increase treatment services
- Increase supervision
- Increase drug testing
- Modify your treatment plan.

If you are placed on relapse management and testing, you must report and provide a urine sample every time the recording instructs anyone else to provide a urine sample. You will also be required to attend court weekly until the Judge releases you from relapse management and testing.

## **Therapeutic Adjustments (Changes to Treatment Plan)**

A therapeutic adjustment is a change to your treatment plan designed to help you succeed in recovery. Therapeutic adjustments are not punishments.

Sometimes a participant follows program rules, attending treatment, and making a genuine effort, but is not making the progress expected. In these situations, the Drug Court team may recommend changes to the participant's treatment plan instead of imposing a sanction.

### **Examples of therapeutic adjustments may include:**

- More individual counseling sessions
- Additional group counseling sessions
- Residential treatment
- Increased recovery support services
- Changes to treatment goals or treatment approaches

If you are complying with supervision requirements and actively participating in treatment, but your current treatment plan is not meeting your needs, trained treatment professionals may reassess your situation and recommend changes based on your clinical needs. These recommendations may consider your mental, physical, emotional, and social well-being.

The goal of a therapeutic adjustment is to provide the support and services needed to help you continue making progress in your recovery.

## Unsuccessful Termination

The goal of Drug Court is to help you succeed. However, termination may occur if you:

- Repeatedly refuse treatment.
- Continually violate program rules.
- Commit a serious new criminal offense.
- Present a risk to public safety.
- Are unwilling or unable to participate in the program.
- Are absent from the program for more than 30 days, your whereabouts are unknown, and you are non-compliant with supervision and treatment.

If you are terminated from the program, your case will return to the traditional criminal court docket for disposition.

## FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (COSTS AND FEES)

Financial accountability is a major part of your recovery. While your inability to pay will not be used as the *sole* reason to disqualify you from entering the program, failing to stay current on your financial duties can delay your phase advancement and may be addressed by the Judge in open court.

### **You are responsible for the following costs:**

- **Court Costs and Fines:** You are responsible for paying all court-related financial obligations, court costs, statutory fees, and fines ordered at the time of your sentencing. A payment schedule will be established through probation to ensure these are paid off systematically as you progress through the phases.
- **Positive Urinalysis Result:** If you test positive on a drug test, you must reimburse the Drug Court program \$20 for the confirmation of the test results. The fee is to be paid to the coordinator. You cannot use community service hours to pay for this.
- **Specialized Drug Tests:** If the team has reason to believe you are using a specific prohibited substance, you may be ordered to take a specialized test. If the test is positive, you must reimburse the Drug Court program for the cost of the lab test and confirmation of the results. You cannot use community service hours to pay this fee.
- **Treatment Fees:** You are required to pay \$10 a week directly to EPIC Behavioral Healthcare for treatment services. (Note: Participants receive treatment services valued at many times the cost actually paid).

## Financial Hardship

Drug Court knows that money can be tight. We do not want financial problems to stand in the way of your recovery or your success in this program.

If you are struggling to pay your court fees, treatment costs, or other program expenses, please talk to us.

## ***What to Do If You Can't Pay***

If you cannot make a payment due to real money troubles:

- **Tell Us Right Away:** Contact your coordinator or probation officer as soon as possible.
- **Be Honest:** Give us complete and truthful information about your money situation.
- **Show Proof:** We may ask to see proof of your income, monthly bills, or job status (like pay stubs or bank statements) to understand your situation.

## ***How We Can Adjust Your Payments***

If you are trying your best to pay but simply do not have the money, the Drug Court team may be able to help you by changing your plan. Options may include:

- Giving you more time to pay (extending deadlines).
- Lowering your monthly or weekly payment amounts.
- Pausing your payments for a short time.
- Connecting you with job training or employment services.
- Finding other legal ways to reduce or adjust what you owe.

## ***Fair Rules and Consequences***

- **No Punishment for Poverty:** You will **never** be punished, held back in phases, or kicked out of Drug Court just because you truly cannot afford to pay.
- **Willful Non-Payment:** If you **can** afford to pay but choose not to, hide your income, refuse to follow a payment plan, or refuse to seek gainful employment, you may receive court sanctions.

## ***Your Final Responsibility***

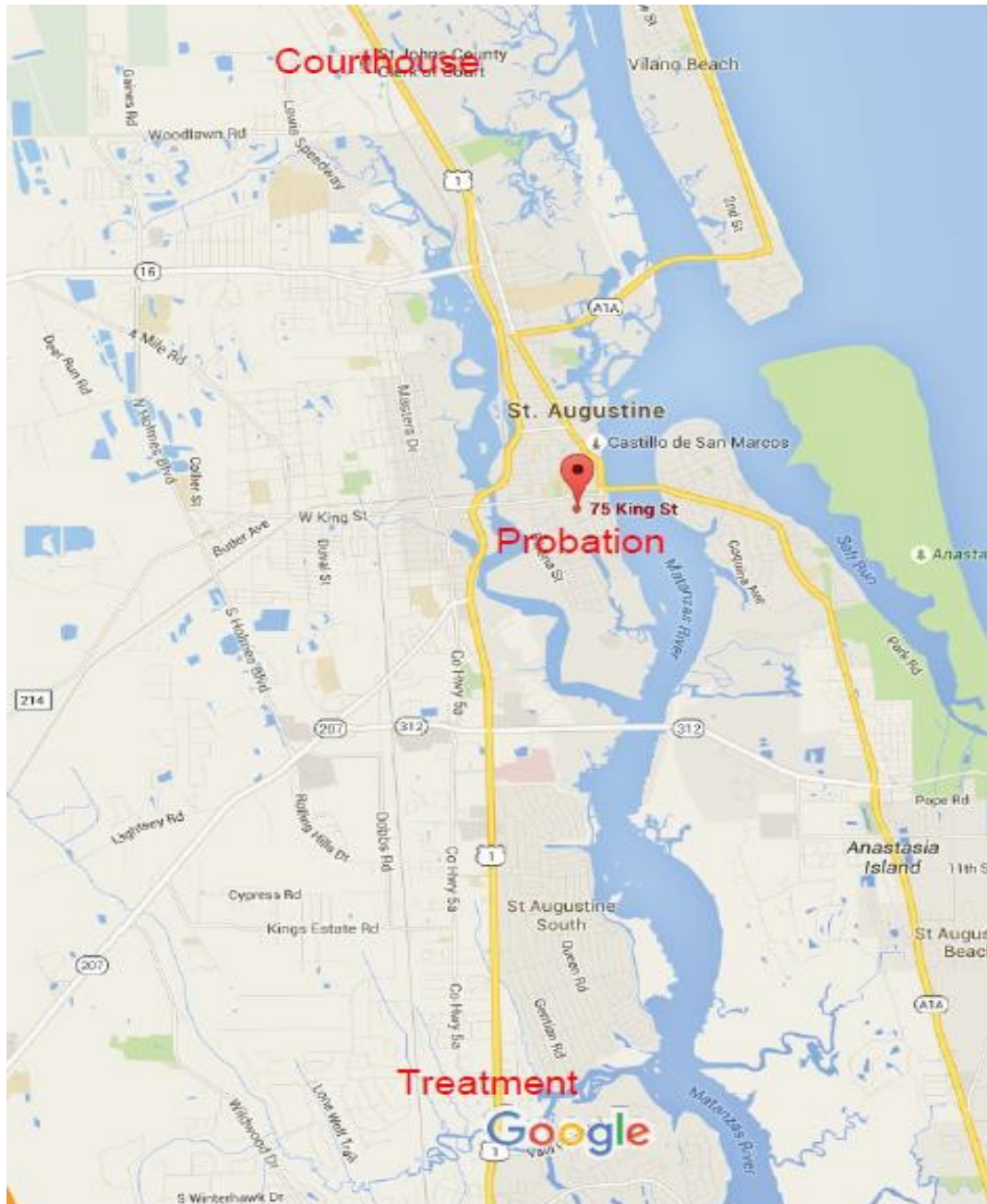
You are still responsible for your program fees unless the Judge officially changes or forgives (waives) them in court. Always keep the team updated if your job or income changes!

## MAP TO COURT, PROBATION AND TREATMENT

**Courthouse:** Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084

**Probation:** Florida FDC Probation, 75 King St., St. Augustine, FL 32084

**Treatment:** EPIC Behavioral Healthcare, 3910 Lewis Speedway (Suite 1103), St Augustine, Florida 32084



## Mission & Vision

The mission of the judicial branch is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

## Vision of the Florida Judicial Branch

Justice in Florida will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive, and accountable.

- **To be accessible**, the Florida justice system will be convenient, understandable, timely and affordable to everyone.
- **To be fair**, the Florida justice system will respect the dignity of every person, regardless of race, class, gender or other characteristic, apply the law appropriately to the circumstances of individual cases, and include judges and court staff who reflect the community's diversity.
- **To be effective**, the Florida justice system will uphold the law and apply rules and procedures consistently and in a timely manner, resolve cases with finality, and provide enforceable decisions.
- **To be responsive**, the Florida justice system will anticipate and respond to the needs of all members of society and provide a variety of dispute resolution methods.
- **To be accountable**, the Florida justice system will use public resources efficiently and in a way that the public can understand.

<https://www.flcourts.gov/Courts-System/mission-vision>

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
IN AND FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**CASE NUMBER(S):**

**CHARGE(S)**

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

**VS.**

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**ST. JOHNS COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT**

**Joining the Program**

I have been assessed as having a substance use disorder, and I want to join the **St. Johns County Adult Drug Court Program**.

- **Voluntary:** I choose to enter this program on my own free will.
- **Handbook Agreement:** I received the Participant Handbook, which outlines specific requirements of the program. The Participant Handbook is incorporated into this Agreement by reference, and I agree to follow the Participant Handbook rules now and any updated rules I am given later.
- **Moving Forward:** Moving to the next phase or graduating requires approval from the Drug Court team and the Judge.

**Legal Requirements & Probation Rules**

- **Probation:** When I am accepted into the program, the Judge will place me on **Drug Offender Probation**.
- **Following Rules:** I must follow this contract, the Participant Handbook, and my probation order. If I break these rules, I may face sanctions, changes to my treatment plan (like residential care), or a probation violation.
- **Leaving early:** If I want to leave Drug Court before graduating, I must ask the Judge for permission. If the Judge approves, my case will return to regular court, and I could face a standard sentence, including prison.
- **Termination:** If the team recommends removing me from the program, I have a right to a formal court hearing before a final decision is made.

**Privacy, Information Sharing, and Court Communications**

- **Confidentiality Rules:** I understand that the confidentiality of my alcohol and drug treatment records is protected under Federal regulations: Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records, 42 CFR Part 2 and the HIPAA privacy Rule, 45 CFR 164.502, 164.512, and 164.514. I further understand and consent to the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) staff having access to the data provided in the Florida Drug Court Case Management System, as required part of the Florida Drug Court compliance, for purposes of providing administrative oversight, program

monitoring and evaluation, and data compliance review. OSCA's contracted vendor, Advanced Computer Technologies, also has access to data for purposes of webhosting, support, and data maintenance.

- **Team Communication:** I agree to let Drug Court team members share information about me. This includes my drug test results, group attendance, and treatment plan.
- **Team Meetings (Ex Parte):** I allow the Drug Court team to discuss my case in team meetings without me or my lawyer present. They will discuss my treatment, progress, safety, and any rewards or consequences.

## Daily Expectations

To stay in the program and reach my goals, I will:

- Show up on time for all court dates, treatment sessions, and meetings.
- Report to my probation officer and coordinator whenever instructed.
- Work toward a job, education, job training, or another approved goal.
- Get approval from the team before changing my home address or leaving St. Johns County.
- Answer all questions from the Drug Court team quickly and honestly.
- Follow all laws, avoid weapons, and stay away from illegal drugs and people who commit crimes.

## Remaining Drug-Free & Testing

- **Random Testing:** I will be drug tested often and at random times, including nights, weekends, and holidays.
- **No Alcohol or Unauthorized Drugs:** I will not use, buy, or hold alcohol, illegal drugs, or unapproved substances.
- **Prescriptions:** I must tell my counselor *before* taking any prescribed medicine. In a medical emergency, I may take prescribed medicine, but I must report it on the next workday.
- **Over the Counter & CBD:** I will check with a pharmacist and get approval from my counselor before taking over-the-counter medicines, herbal supplements, or CBD products (which can cause failed drug tests).

## Program Phases & Length

Drug Court is divided into four (4) phases. The program takes a minimum of one (1) year to complete. The exact length of time I spend in the program depends on my treatment needs, progress, and compliance with program requirements. To move from one phase to the next, I must meet the requirements for that phase and show steady progress in my recovery and daily life.

### Phase 1: Assessment, Orientation and Stabilization (Minimum of 60 Days)

**Goal:** Learn the Drug Court schedule and expectations, begin living drug-and alcohol-free, and understand your treatment needs. **Requirements:**

- Complete orientations with probation and the coordinator.
- Complete all treatment intakes and assessments.
- Attend court weekly.
- Attend at least three (3) group therapy sessions per week during the phase.
- Participate in at least two (2) individual therapy sessions during the phase.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least five (5) days each week.
- Meet with your probation officer
- once (1) a week as instructed.
- Meet with your coordinator once (1) a week as instructed.
- Complete at least 60 total days in Phase 1.
- Accumulate at least 60 **consecutive** (uninterrupted) sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

**Phase 2: Intensive Outpatient Treatment (Minimum of 120 days)** **Goal:** Build skills for long-term recovery, learn more about addiction and how it affects your life, and maintain short-term sobriety. **Requirements:**

- Attend Court once every two (2) weeks.
- Attend at least three (3) group therapy sessions per week.
- Participate in at least one (1) individual therapy session per month.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least five (5) days each week.
- Meet with your probation officer once every two (2) weeks as instructed.
- Meet with your coordinator once every (2) weeks as instructed.
- Complete at least 120 total days in Phase 2.
- Accumulate at least 90 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Obtain/maintain lawful employment of no less than 20 hours per week and/or enroll in/attend school.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

**Phase 3: Skill Building and Adjustment (Minimum of 120 Days)**

**Goal:** Become more independent by relying on community support instead of the structure of Drug Court. Build job skills, manage daily responsibilities, and continue strengthening your recovery. **Requirements:**

- Attend Court once 1 every three (3) weeks.
- Attend at least two (2) group therapy sessions per week.
- Participate in at least one (1) individual therapy session per month.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least three (3) days each week.
- Meet with your probation officer once (1) a month as instructed.
- Meet with your coordinator once (1) a month as instructed.
- Complete at least 120 total days in Phase 3.
- Accumulate at least 120 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Maintain lawful employment of no less than 20 hours per week and/or attend school.
- Turn in a Phase Advancement Petition.

**Phase 4: Continuing Care (Minimum of 60 Days)**

**Goal:** Prepare to live a drug-free and law-abiding life without the support and structure of Drug Court. Build the confidence and skills to maintain your recovery on your own. **Requirements:**

- Attend Court once (1) every month.
- Attend at least four (4) group therapy sessions per week.
- Participate in at least two (2) individual therapy sessions per month.
- Call the drug test hotline daily and test when ordered.
- Attend Support Group Meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smart Recovery or other team-approved sessions, one (1) a day for at least three (3) days each week.
- Meet with your probation officer once (1) a month as instructed by your Probation Officer.
- Meet with your coordinator once (1) a month as instructed.
- Complete at least 60 total days in Phase 4.
- Accumulate at least 180 **consecutive** sobriety days.
- Complete at least 25 community service hours.
- Be current on your treatment fees.
- Maintain lawful employment of no less than 20 hours per week and/or attend school.
- Complete Graduation Autobiography and vision/poster board.

## Incentives, Sanctions, and Treatment Changes

Drug Court uses incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments to help me stay engaged in recovery and make progress towards my goals.

- **Incentives (Rewards):** I will receive rewards when I follow the rules and make progress. Examples: certificates, candy, gift cards, awarded community services hours, etc.
- **Sanctions (Consequences):** I will receive court consequences if I break program rules or act dishonestly. Examples: essays, added community service hours, jail days, etc.
- **Therapeutic Adjustments:** If I struggle with my addiction, the Judge may change my treatment plan (such as adding sessions or residential care) to help me recover.

## Unsuccessful Termination

I may be removed from Drug Court if I:

- Repeatedly refuse to participate in treatment or follow rules.
- Commit a serious new crime or pose a risk to public safety.
- Unexcused missing or absconding for **30 days or more**.
- Fail to make progress after reasonable treatment efforts.

## Fees and Money

- **Costs:** I am responsible for paying court costs, fines, and a **\$10 weekly treatment fee** to EPIC Behavioral Healthcare.
- **Positive Tests:** If I test positive for unauthorized drugs, I must pay **\$20** for the confirmation lab test.
- **Inability to Pay:** I will **not** be punished or kicked out of Drug Court simply because I genuinely cannot afford fees. However, fees remain my responsibility unless the Judge officially waives them in court.

## Participant Rights

While in Drug Court, I have the right to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect.
- Receive treatment suited to my personal needs.
- Ask questions and speak to my defense attorney about my legal rights.
- Have a court hearing before being removed from the program.
- Request reasonable accommodation for a disability.

## Signatures

By signing below, I confirm that I have read (or had read to me) and understand this agreement. I agree to follow all rules in this contract and the Participant Handbook.

**Participant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Defense Counsel Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_